

Message Text

SECRET

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62

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

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5/4/73 EXT 22038

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O 050047 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

USSAG/7 AF

CINCSAC

S E C R E T STATE 085670

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS CA

SUBJECT: U. S. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE AND ICCS FLIGHTS

1. IN RESPONSE TO AN EARLIER REQUEST WE HAVE TODAY INFORMED
THE CANADIANS HERE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) IT APPEARS PERFECTLY CLEAR, FROM EYEWITNESS RE-
PORTS, THAT GROUND FIRE FROM PRG POSITIONS WAS DIRECTED
AT THE ICCS HELICOPTERS.

(B) A U. S. RECONNAISSANCE DRONE DID
OVERFLY THE QUANG TRI AREA IN QUESTION ON MAY 2 BUT
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AFTER THE TIME THE ICCS HELICOPTERS WERE REPORTED TO
HAVE RECEIVED GROUND FIRE.

(C) THE DRONE CROSSED THE ICCS FLIGHT CORRIDOR; IT DID
NOT FLY ALONG IT.

(D) THE DRV/ PRG OBVIOUSLY ARE SEIZING ON THE DRONE
FLIGHT AS AN EXCUSE.

(E) WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO ASSURE OURSELVES THAT U. S.
RECCE FLIGHTS WILL NOT FLY IN AIR SPACE NEAR THAT BEING
USED BY ICCS FLIGHTS AT THE TIMES THOSE FLIGHTS ARE
SCHEDULED. IN ORDER TO ASSURE PROPER EXERCISE OF THIS
CAUTION, U. S. MISSION WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH ICCS

TO OBTAIN ICCS FLIGHT SCHEDULES.

2. WITH RESPECT TO (E) ABOVE, REQUEST YOU IMMEDIATELY
INSTITUTE MEASURES TO OBTAIN ADVANCE ICCS FLIGHT PLANS
AND PROVIDE THEM IN A TIMELY MANNER TO U. S. MILITARY AU-
THORITIES OPERATING RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER VIET- NAM.
THESE AUTHORITIES WILL RECEIVE ORDERS THROUGH MILITARY
CHANNELS TO AVOID ANY RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS THAT WOULD
PASS NEAR ICCS FLIGHTS AS MENTIONED IN (E) ABOVE.

3. BELIEVE YOU SHOULD ALSO OBTAIN ASSURANCES THAT VNAF
TAKES SIMILAR PRECAUTIONS. RUSH

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VS CA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE085670
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: L. B. ASKEW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730537/aaaahyth.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971212
Subject: U. S. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE AND ICCS FLIGHTS
TAGS: MARR
To: BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
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USSAG/7 AF
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Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005